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Merry Christmas to all! and to all good morning!

It is too early to hang stockings for the McKinley presents, but to-day thousands can be hopeful in expectancy.

If Senator Morgan, of Alabama, could be presented with a recipe for short and infrequent speeches, a large part of the Amer ican people would rejoice.

If Santa Claus can put into the stocking

of Senator George Graham Vest a charm which would transform him into a broadgauged American the country would be It would have been a fine thing if Con-

as that was not possible the next best thing it could do was to adjourn. Robert Lindblom, a Chicago grain mer-

chant, favors the Japanese method of dealbank wreckers-immediate beheading. Mr. Lindblom was caught in the Illinois National suspension. If the obstructive element in the Senate

should return imbued with a purpose to do some legislation in the interests of the Republic, this would be the most satisfactory holiday season to the whole country in re-

Every prominent Republican paper in the country condemns the attempt to repeal the civil-service law, but several criticise the sweeping application of the rules to branches of the same which have just been filled with Democrats.

It is to the credit of the Governor-elect of Illinois that he makes haste to deny the report that he is pushing the candidacy of Alderman Madden for the United States senators is a legislative function.

Congress should withdraw the Christmas present of \$10,000,600 a year which has been bestowed upon publishers of magazines dime and fifty-cent novels and cheap advertising pamphlets by a decision of the postal authorities by passing the Loud bill.

It was hardly necessary for Mr. Dingle; to deny the foolish statement of some Washington correspondent that he was on posed to making reciprocity a feature of the new traiff bill. Mr. Dingley is a Republican and in favor of promoting Ameri-

The truth is the President learned a great His wariike declaration a year ago filled recognition because it will disturb the peace and check the returning confidence

It was always to the credit of Tammany Hall that it never permitted one of its high national office. The Chiwhich is pushing the malodor-Alderman Madden for the United States Senate should heed the modesty and discretion of Tammany and keep such men

Mr. McEnery, the new Louisiana Senator, is reported to have declared himself a ectionist, and that he will not only no tariff bill by the Republicans, but will supcountry generally. Such this will weaken the conspiracy of the Duboises, the Stewarts, the Pettigrews and the Tellers to defeat a tariff bil which has not a free-silver attachment.

The Woolson Spice Company, of Toledo, did not wish to sell its property and the Sugar Trust when it was ight the Arbuckles. The Woolrice offered. If a penalty for bery is to be continued there ne for such stand-and-deliver that perpetrated by the Sugar

Representatives of the sugar interest who The average annual increase is about 6 per this rate within fifteen years building up the sugar industry until the United States shall produce all

Foreign dispatches indicate that the Eudefinite policy towards Turkey which is to often promised and long deed reforms in Armenia. The fact that

position in the vicinity of Constantinople than she is about righting Armenian wrongs. The only settlement of the Turkish question she desires is the partition of Turkey, and when that comes she wants a ences also, and it is this that makes the terests involved are vast and complicated, coercion Turkey may cause Europe great trouble. Nobody knows more of the inside history of the stupendous fraud called "the balance of power" than the Sultan does. single copy 5 cts | He is the keeper of a great many dangerous secrets, and if he wishes to precipitate a general European war he is in a position to do it.

A CHRISTMAS STORY.

"Now, when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of Herod the King, behold, there came wise men from the East to Jerusalem, saying: 'Where is He that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East, and to worship Him.' And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night; and lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. The angel said unto them, 'Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, for unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glery to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.'

"And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another. 'Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord seph, and the babe lying in a manger; and when they had seen it they made known abroad the saving which was told them concerning this child. * * * When Herod. come into the house they saw the young down and worshiped Him; and when they had opened their treasures they presented unto Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh, and they departed unto their own

THE CHICAGO BANK WRECKERS.

of the National Bank of Illinois. The aged president was the dupe of a set of sons-inlaw who are plungers. He loaned to them Senate, and to intimate that the making of schemes. This knowledge was worth good wide-awake second vice president proceedbank, but one robber, discovering the crime ther open the bank's vaults for himself. safe and there agreed to silence and di-

were presented them, they glanced over the list, not even verifying the totals. They did not even ask the president and other officers if the security offered was ample. president. At least, one of the directors asserts that that was the reason why they lid not investigate the standing of those asking the bank for credit. Above all things, they desired to be courteous. It is always so important. Yet it seems incredble that after the controller had notified fore, of the large and unlawful loans which had not learned of the partial wrecking of the bank. They were not directors, but

THE GROUND OF OPPOSITION.

The contention which has arisen between Congress to acknowledge the independence of Cuba is of minor importance in comparson with the question of the propriety of time before the insurgents have established a civil government upon the island and have demonstrated their ability to maintain the independence they are contending for. Just now a persistent class of demagogues which an inscrutable Provibeat the Cameron resolution in the Senate.' street. The New York commercial organizations of Wall street seem to have made tion. The Stock Exchange has not proropean powers have at last agreed upon a clubs in several cities have passed resoluone of coercion with the object of bringing | they see that anything in the line proposed Cuban insurgents and may bring

the Cameron resolution will be that the wealth of the country is arrayed against gogues would assist, but they would keep up a sectional strife by assuming that the money lenders are hostile to the recognition of Cuba. Senators whose States have deprived half their voting population of the right of suffrage, and senators in whose maintained by fraudulent elections will be frantic in their demands for freedom of

It is very probable that a large majority of the conservative and thoughtful people of the country are opposed to such recognition as the Senate committee proposes because it cannot help the Cubans and will create a condition of uncertainty and agitation which will interfere with the revival of business and industry in this country. They insist that it is vastly more im portant that the American people shall enjoy those conditions of peace and quiet which will set all its industries in motion and give employment to more people in this country than Cuba contains, than that Congress or the President recognize an independence which does not exist and which can be of no essential advantage to the

There is reason to believe that a large majority of those who voted for Mr. Bryan will not favor any proposition which will interfere with the prosperity of the country and cannot give freedom to the Cubans. They will not be blind followers of the political calamityites.

A NEW GOVERNMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

It is a little remarkable that, pending discussion of the question whether the recognition of new governments is an executive or a legislative function, the President should be called on to recognize the new "Greater Republic of Central America." It is true the act did not involve the recognition of the independence of a new state. but it was the recognition of a new combination of states and a new government, President did this without consulting Conernments, new dynasties or new administragovernment they represent.

since it probably marks a new stage in the toward more stable government. The well named, since it is really a federal somewhat after the model of our federal government. Heretofore Central America has consisted of five independent republicsviz., Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, for the formation of a federal union of the obviously correct, that they would thus Great Britain in occupying for a time the Honduras, by the Presidents of Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. For some reason or other Guatemala and Costa Rica were public of Central America." It provided tatives from each of the three republics, slaughtered Texas steers would have been to sit yearly at the capitals of the different the foreign relations of the consolidated If any foreign question arises that cannot The separate autonomy of the states in domestic affairs was to continue as before were allowed for its final adoption. If within that time Guatemala and Costa Rica should Guatemala and Costa Rica have not yet joined the federation, though they may do so later. One result of the new federation will be that instead of Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua each sending a representative to Washington, the minister of the Greater Republic will represent them jointly and the three ministers of the United States to the separate republics will be consolidated into one, thus cutting off two to be a good thing for the states and contribute to the promotion of all their in-

It would be a public calamity to have the civil-service law repealed, yet something should be done to rectify the injustice ocsion agency. When the present agent took experienced clerks except two, a number Democrats rather than competent clerks. of them could have got the positions they the civil-service rules. At the same time, veterans who have been in the office years and are perfectly competent cannot appear clares that the preference in such places should be given to veterans, other things

The officers of the State University come forward with a request for an appropriation of \$250,000 for new buildings and plants; and yet these officers gave the last Legislature and the general public to understand if the direct tax for which they asked should be voted, they would not again appear as supplicants for further aid, and that their leg-

voted they would not again appear as supplicants. These excellent and learned gentlemen seem to have some of the peculiarities of Oliver Twist.

Congressman Gibson, of Tennessee, is the first opponent of the civil-service law to quote Scripture against it. In the course of his speech, delivered a few days ago, he sked. "Who will keep up the organization of our great parties if there are to be no rewards for those who do the work? In the language of St. Paul, 'Who goeth to warfare at any time at his own charges? who planteth the vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock and eateth not of the milk of the flock?" " Mr. Gibson did not assert that St. Paul was the author of the maxim "To the victors belong the spoils," but he implied it.

A Chicago paper says that it was a mystery, during the late campaign, that the second Vice President and really the manager of the National Bank of Illinois should be a loud exponent of free and unlimited coinage of silver. Since the failure of the bank it is no longer a mystery. The sons-in-law of the president, and the second vice president, as great investors, were debtors to the bank to the extent of several millions. If the second vice president could have paid his obligations to the bank in 50 or 73-cent dollars he would have saved a large profit and at the same time largely enhanced the value of the stocks which he had deposited as collaterals.

Those magazines that have a lobby in Washington to defeat the Loud postal bill, which puts an end to the abuses of fraudulent second-class matter which costs the people \$10,000,000 a year, should practice the patriotism that their writers extol and withdraw their opposition. As a rule these publishers denounce those who ask for a protective stariff as mercenaries-what epithet shall; be applied to them, now that they are insisting upon a policy which takes at least \$10,000,000 a year out of the revenues of the postal service?

traying Maceo into the hands of the Spanish, makes a statement which, in spite of its seeming frankness and sincerity, has a suspicious air. The details of his story fit together well enough, but it sounds like an ex-parte statement that might go to pieces under cross-examination. The doctor protests too much, and if he were as true a Cuban patriot as he professes to be he would not have abandoned the cause because his favorite leader was killed.

When Mr. Nelson Morris., the millionaire packer of Chicago, felt the hot breath of a Texas steer at his back and had to tumble over a fence in great haste to escape the animal's horns, he may have recalled the adage that even a worm will turn when trod upon. The Texas steer has been used as a synonym for all that is worthless in bovine life, but since he has shown that he knows his rights, and knowing dare maintain. he will be more respected. Mr. Morris has been the means of having unnumbered thousands of Texas steers killed, cut up and distributed broadcast, but he has operated from a safe distance. So far as known he never tempted a personal interview with one of the animals on ground of his own choosing until Wednesday, when, passing through a cattle pen with a friend, he prodded one of them with his cane? Perhaps even he might have escaped, but the prod was too much. There comes a point in the history of a Texas-steer when forbearance eration to the winds and seek swift revenge for a long series of wrongs. It is not entirely safe for any person to prod a Texas steer with a cane, but for a person with such a record as Mr. Nelson Morris to do so is to tempt fate. In this case it was exceedingly fortunate for him that the fence which proved his salvation was neither too far away nor too high. If the campaign had lasted a little longer his career as a packer would have been brought to a sudden end and a long line of

A Christmas Carol.

red o'er Bethlehem, the star shone through the gray When Jesus Christ our Savior was/born on Christ-

rest ye, little children; let nothing you Jesus Christ, your Savior, was born thi Along the hills of Galilee the white flocks sleep When Christ, the Child of Nazareth, was born on

The Lord of all good Christians was of a woman Now all your sorrows -Dinah Maria Mulock.

ABOUT PEOPLE AND THINGS.

han one hundred million dollars, which has made by saving and interest out of her annual net revenue of \$600,000. The alleged birthplace of Faust, Roda, near Weimar, has been demolished. It was sold for old building material for about \$22. There was a project of taking it to Chicago at the time of the world's

Queen Victoria is said to be worth

fair, but the scheme fell through Collis P. Huntington some time ouilt a palatial residence on Fifth avenue at a cost of \$2,500,000. But his family has perstition of Mr. Huntington's that its occupancy would be speedily followed by his

Emma Eames-Storey began cultivating her voice in her fifteenth year, and her placed her where she is. She is an exceptionally thorough student, and when is not working on new scores she is perfecting those she has already learned. Capt. C. B. Blood, of Tenhessee, acted for a year as drillmaster for raw insurgent troops under Gomez. just returned to his home. He brings back startling information that General Weyler is a native of Ohio and a son of parents of German origin. His father is

at present a farmer in the Buckeye State. The young Queen of Holland's English governess, Miss Winter, has finished her instruction of the young lady and returned to her home in England. She did not always have smooth sailing with her Majesty. Once, when Wilhelmina would not bow as often as she should to her admiring subjects, Miss Winter tried to send her to bed an hour earlier than usual. But the little Queen positively refused to obey, and stayed up until her customary hour for retiring, which was 8:30.

As long ago as 1824 the fountain pens were in use, for in that year Thomas Jefit. and wrote to Gen. Bernard Peyton, of Richmond, asking him to get him one of The pen was of gold, and the ink tube of silver, and, according to Jefferson's letter, the maker was a Richmond watch repairer named Cowan. The first American patent for a fountain pen was granted in 1830 to one Douglass Hyde, but the earliest English patent was issued

twenty-one years before Ferdinand de Lesseps, one of the younger sons of the creator of the Suez canal, in the Thirteenth Chasseurs, has apparently inherited the passionate temper and tiery disposition of his celebrated father, for he has just fought a duel with a felof his regiment at Beziers, ow-officer which resulted in his running his saber through the lungs of his adversary, who succumbed a few hours later. It is understood that the encounter originated in

a slighting remark passed by the dead man upon the father of young De Les-

Complaint is made that there is a deterioration in Sarah Bernhardt's art as the result of too many foreign tours. The London Daily News says that she has become very unequal in her work, and that 'when you are fortunate you hear her as in her great day; when you are not she will gabble through her task as though in a hurry to be off to supper or to bed. It is the penalty she has to pay for starring all through the states and all over Europe, with the sole exception among the great states of Prussia. At the Francais played but two or three nights a week, and she was expected to devote the rest of her time to study and repose. In her strolling career she played only less often than the leading lady at a booth in

For little children everywhere A joyous season still we make, We bring our precious gifts to them, Even for the dear child Jesus' sakes -Phoebe Cary.

At Christmas-tide the open hand Scatters its bounty o'er sea and land, And none are left to grieve alone, For love is heaven and claims its own.

-Margaret Sangster.

Blow, bugles of battle, the marches East, west, north and south let the lo quarrel cease: Sing the song of great joy that the ange Sing of glory to God and of good will -Whittier.

THE PARK SCHEME.

Give Taxpayers a Breathing Spell to Recover from Onerous Burdens.

To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal:

Our millionaire Board of Park Commis- | purposes. sioners, with the able assistance of their polished and versatile secretary, Colonel Holloway, have presented to Mayor Taggart and the City Council for consideration an elaborate plan for providing the city with a system of parks to be constructed | and fortifications, which has been experion a most gorgeous scale-parks, indeed, that will rival those of any of the old and | to secure a high explosive capable of withwealthy cities of the country. The first proposition is to have the city issue \$500,-000 in bonds and purchase with the proceeds of these bonds about one thousand more plainly speaking, condemn that watching the reports which have been mount of private property and force the owners to sell the same during the present depression at about one-half the real value of the property. The second proposition in the board's mind is to assess, under the theory of supposed benefits, all the property in the neighborhood of the park lands to create a fund to make the extensive lands are acquired. That is to say, a part of the property in proximity to the park lands secured is to be confiscated to carry out the scheme. The beauty of this idea, the board thinks, lies in the fact that as only a limited number of taxpayers would throw the shell containing the explosive be robbed in the way of imaginary benefit assessments and the spoils thus acquired would inure to the public, therefore the of the most attractive features of the board's plan. The board tells us we are not now in debt up to the constitutional imitation, having just got out of that unfortunate predicament a few months since, and should make haste to get back to it. It says that unless we at once enter upon the road to a grand park system the city his power to secure some system by which will relapse into villagehood in a few years, notwithstanding the city gained 81,716 in population in the last ten years and added | torily employed. He has paid considerable to its wealth over \$59,000,000 without the aid of an elaborate park system. also kindly shows us that all the cities of about the same size as Indianapolis that possess extensive park areas have city debts running from three to twelve millions, while that of Indianapolis, thank

not to possess the usual amount of indebtdness of cities of its class. The question of the value of low taxation and small debt in the way of attracting capital and population to our city is not discussed in the board's report, and in fact, it could have no place in such a report; neither was the necessity or the advisability of the purchase of the water works plant by the city mentioned, for it, too, would be foreign to the subject in

God! is only \$1.377,500. Of course, Indian-

apolis must bear the odium of being some-

sized debt. It surely looks bad for a city

jakey in not having a first-class-

According to a list recently prepared by Saulcey of the taxpayers of the city of Indianapolis and corporations only 1,230 individuals and corporations all told \$10,000 or more, from which it can be readily seen that we are by no means wealthy city, and can hardly afford-that most of us-the private and public luxuries that are the proper and natural associates of great wealth. Lastly, but not least, are not the great body of property owners of this city, after having been heavily assessed for improved streets and sewers during the past five years, most of which assessments are still unpaid, entitled to a breathing spell before any further public burdens are placed upon them? Or are they to be hounded to their graves by the tax-eaters? ANTI-BOULEVARD.

DON'T GO TO CUBA.

Advice Given to Young Men by a Man Who Has Been There.

"Young men from the United States | wide, one foot deep and ten miles long. should not go to Cuba to aid the revolutionists," said Gen. Bradley T. Johnson in a lecture last night at the Catholic Club, in which he told some of his experiences and observations during his stay on war-torn island last summer. There is not the slightest sense in the tinued.

world in their going to Cuba," he con-"They are not needed or wanted by the Cubans. All the insurgents want are arms and medicines. The Cubans can carry on a guerrilla warfare for months to come. Their war is one of devastation of property, the Spanish war is of extermination of the Cubans. Our young men will find no opportunity to battle as they might expect-no chance to win military honors and renown. When they enter the insurranks they will find themselves herded with negroes, and their military engagements will be the occasional ambuscade of detached bodies of Spanish soldiers and the destruction of property throughout the country. Don't go to Cuba, my young friends. You are of more value than the whole of the people on that island. There is no fighting. I could take the Fifth Regiment there and clean out Weyler in short

"I am a Cuban sympathizer, and I think that Cuba should have her independence, but I do not think that the United States ought to help her win it by arms except within certain time limit. The best thing for us to do is to pass the Cameron resolution, pending in Congress, recognizing Cuban independence, and let the Cuban patriots go ahead and fight it out. They can They are not unlike the Virginia mountaineers-long-legged, lean, alert and muscular-but they are the worst looking, most ragged soldiers I ever saw, not excepting the old Confederates. The island must be part of the United States. It is as necessary to us as the

ico like a great big sword. It bars the gulf and controls the commerce of the Ohio, Missouri and Mississippi valleys, which seeks an outlet by water. 'President Cleveland said in his message that there is no revolutionary government in Cuba to recognize. I differ with him. There is a government in Cuba which governs. It is not essential that the revolu-tionists should have a president. They have laws which govern and control the people everywhere, save in Havana and a few of the large cities. The American colonists had no president when France came

nouth of the Mississippi river, which we

had to buy. It lies across the Gulf of Mex-

to their aid. While I was in Cuba I met a Japanese officer, covered with decorations, who got permission to make excursions into the island. He returned on the same steamer with me to New York. He had made one of the most perfect maps of Cuba I have seen, accurately locating all the Spanish strongholds and the position of their arm-I believe that this information was for use in the rebellion now going on in the Philippine islands. I take the latter to be simply a move of Japan to get control of the commerce of the Pacific ocean.

The Man Who Wants War. What ho! Let loose the dogs of war, And bid them rip and tear! Get out and howl with all your might And froth and saw the air Hurl blasting epithets against Our glorious country's foes And close your fists and shake them 'neath The haughty Spanlard's nose!

Turn out! Turn out, and join the fray And flaunt our glorious flag And hang the Dons in effigy And burn their shameful rag Let loose the howling dogs of war, And I'll stand back and watch you, for I haven't time to fight.

-S. E. Kiser. in Cleveland Leader.

ORDNANCE OFFICIALS CLOSE OR SERVERS OF IT IN CUBA.

Practical Test of the New Gun, One Discharge of Which Will Scatter and Rout a Regiment.

New York Herald.

The war in Cuba may be primitive in its general methods and barbarous in the matter of butchery, but it is certainly modern in the rapid development of dynamite and other explosives as weapons of offense and defense. To the dynamite gun used by the Cubans in Pinar del Rio more than to anything else may be attributed the noteworthy successes of Maceo against the Spanish troops. Invisible bullets, though deadly in their effects, are comparatively easy to stand against. It requires superhuman nerve, however, to face a healthy dynamite projectile, and it is no wonder that the Spanish troops have been invariably defeated when called upon to make a stand against such weapons.

The Cubans have but one gun of this kind. Think of a battery of a dozen such guns. Such an armament would play havoc with an army formed of the best troops in the world. Army officers are watching the war in Cuba with great in- and accepted with alacrity an invitation to terest, as the employment of dynamite by the Cubans has satisfied the miltary mind of the value of this explosive for offensive

The military information division of the War Department has collected all available information bearing on this subject and has placed it on file for future reference. Members of the board of ordnance menting for some years past in an effort standing the shock of discharge from a high power gun, have found new interest! in reading the reports of the use of this explosive by Maceo and his followers and the favorable reports which have been secured. The ordnance bureaus of both the War and Navy Departments are also published concerning the results obtained men are more anxious than ever to secure some system by which dynamite can be thrown to a satisfactory distance without danger to the men handling the guns. So far no satisfactory system has been found. The board of ordnance and fortifications has conducted a number of experiments with inventions which have been submitted, and is offering to try any others that may be presented. The naval bureau of ordnance has also paid considerable attention to this subject. The only motive power yet found to work with safety for the operators of the system is compressed air, but this method has drawbacks, the principal one of which, and the one which destroys effectiveness, is the inability to officers claim that they have secured excellent results in throwing high explosives in the guns now in service.

MILES FAVORS DYNAMITE. Major General Nelson A. Miles, commanding the army, and president of the board of ordnance and fortifications. a strong advocate of the use of dynamite in modern warfare, and he is doing all in this explosive can be safely and satisfacattention to the matter during his long military career, and has attended the tests of systems which showed evidence of producing good results. It will be remembered that he was one of the officers who witnessed the trial of the Dudley dynamite gun, which occurred last spring. defective shell burst the breech of gun after several successful shots had been fired, and the fragments were hurled in every direction. Fortunately General his colaborers were not struck. and the army was thus saved one of the most progressive commanding officers t ever had

International comity, of course, prevents General Miles from discussing the employment of dynamite by Maceo, and its ef fect upon Spanish property. Last week, however, he gave me an interesting description of the effects of dynamite on huge masses or rock and the efforts on foot to secure some method by which the explosive could be satisfactorily utilized for military service. He said: 'Nitroglycerin has been one of the greatest factors in civil works in modern times, It has enabled railroad engineers to sink wells, and then, by the use of this explosive placed under great ledges of rock crush

the granite. It crusnes everything within reach. Powder by no means gives the satisfactory results obtained from nitroglycerin It simply blows huge masses of rock out of its bed and then loses its force through the fissures which may have opened up. Dynamite was employed with wonderfully satisfactory results in the construction of the Northern Pacific Railroad, I remember that on one occasion twelve tons of dynamite was exploded in opening up one pass. This was exploded by an electric current. The result was that a roadway was opened through a mountain of rock and every part of the granite was crushed in fragments of such size that they were easily picked up and hauled away on railroad cars. At one explosion the amount of rock crushed in this manner was equal to paving a street fifty-four feet

THROWING HIGH EXPLOSIVES. "So much for the utility of dynamite for ive warfare there is no question of its The intelligent engineers of the the subject of throwing this high explosive demonstrating the practicability of using dynamite, they have not yet perfected a system of putting the explosive into projectiles and discharging it with safety. consideration, both in this country and abroad, and the outlook for shortly finding some method by which nitroglycerin and its compounds can be employed is very

guns now at Sandy Hook hav proven that dynamite can be thrown with safety by means of compressed air. the use of this system the projectile discharged without shock. The military men are trying to solve how to overcome the effects of this shock when high-power guns are employed for throw ing the explosive. The board of ordnance and fortifications has this matter under consideration, and during the last year conducted a number of experiments. of which were partially successful. of the systems tried, however, has seemed to commend itself over any of the others. The board is encouraging all inventors in line to submit their inventions for rial. It is only a question of time when the practicability of throwing high explosives long distances will be shown. Such a system is, of course, necessary, as it is intended to use the explosive for defending the harbors and coast cities of the country. The harbors will be protected by torpedoes, and beyond the line thus formed the explosive must be dropped. Were to fall inside the line there would danger of it exploding all the torpedoes the vicinity of the point of explosion. Brigadier General Flagler, chief of the Army Ordnance Bureau, is also convinced that dynamite will play a considerable part in the warfare of the future. The experiments with high explosives under his supervision are constantly in progress at the Sandy Hook proving grounds. General Flagler subdivides the difficulty of handling this substance under two heads. He says it is first necessary to obtain an explosive of the higher order that can be fired safely-that is, without danger of explosion from the shock in the breech the gun-and second, that will not explode from the shock of impact, but will explode at such time after impact as desired by the gunner. General Flagler mite by three systems-compressed air guns, submarine mines and torpedoes,

These form a part of our system of coast defense. The compressed airguns are built to discharge large charges of high explosives, and tests have demonstrated their ability to do this work. What we desire, however, is to obtain some system by which the explosive can be fired long distances. The compressed-air method fails to give this result. I believe that a system will be found in the near future which will satisfactorily answer all requirements.

"The Night Before Christmas."

Harper's Round Table The author of the famous poem that re counts in such graphic language "The Visit of St. Nicholas" was born in the city of New York July 15, 1779. His boyhood was passed at the country seat of his father, called Chelsea, then far remote is no occasion for anyone to get excited.

from the city, but now a very thickly settled portion of it, and embracing a large tract in the vicinity of Ninth avenue and

Twenty-third street. In the intervals between the time devoted to more serious studies his principal amusement was writing short poems for the amusement of his children, and among them was "The Visit of St. Nicholas," which was written for them as a Christmas gift about 1840. The idea, he states, was derived from an ancient legend, which was related to him by an old Dutchman who lived near his father's home, and told him the story when a boy.

In those days every young lady was sup-posed to have an "album," and a relative who was visiting the family quickly transferred the verses to hers. They were first published, much to the surprise of the author, in a newspaper printed in Troy. They attracted immediate attention, and were copied and recopied in newspapers and periodicals all over the country. An illustrated edition, in book form, was published about 1850, and since then school readers have made them familiar to generation after generation of children. They have been translated into foreign languages, and a learned editor informed us of his delight and surprise when traveling in Germany to hear them recited by a little girl in her own native tongue.

A SPANISH EXECUTION.

An American Traveler Tells of One He Saw in Cuba. Baltimore News.

Mr. William Todd, an engineer of the Maryland Construction Company, tells the following story of a Spanish execution in Cuba which he saw:

"In company with three classmates I was spending my Christmas vacation in Cuba and we were stopping at the Hotel L'Engleterre, opposite the Grand Piaza, 'We heard of an execution which was to take place at sunrise in old Morro Castle, be present from Dr. McDonald, at present the head of the lunacy commission of New York State, who was with us at the time. He was on a tour of inspection through the prisons of the South, and was traveling

government "The sentenced man, as we learned, had been a sergeant in the Spanish army and was a Cuban by birth. He was so unfortunate as to be in love with one of Havana's beauties. We saw her at the execution-jet black eyes and hair, almost perfect feat-The colonel of the same regiment met

under the auspices of the United States

ures-in all, a typical Spanish beauty. her one day, fell desperately in love and determined to displace his rival by fair means or foul. It was not a difficult task as far as she was concerned, with the inducements of his more luxurious salary. Through his influence the sergeant was reduced to the ranks on a trumped-up charge and was ordered to Spain to serve in some garrison on the eastern coast. Spain is Siberia to the Cuban. The unfortunate called shortly before the time appointed for his departure on his senorita. It must have been a chilly meeting, in which her change of affections became apparent. At any rate, he suspected the cause and the plot, and awaited the colonel that night, a little way off the plaza, on his way home and tried to cut his throat. The wound was not fatal, but, of course, this was insubordination of the worst kind, and he was courtmartialed next day and sentenced to be shot the next week, Saturday, at sunrise. "At that time the coals of the present revolt were burning red and we heard much grumbling at the injustice of it all. Friends made every effort to gain a reprieve, and cablegrams were sent to the Spanish Court, but to no avail. It was rank insubordina-

tion, and an example had to be made. "The morning of the execution dawned bright and clear, an ideal West Indian day, About forty spectators stood waiting on the bastion of the old castle overlooking the square in the fortress where all the executions, both military and political, have taken place since the building of this guardian of the Spanish galleons in the fifteenth century. On three sides of the square below were drawn up 600 men, with the commandant and staff in the center. On the left the sentenced man's company stood disarmed in disgrace. On the right stood a drum corps, who were ready to drown any cries or lamentations because of their bad

effect on the troops. "Just as the sun appeared over the western hills the chapel bell tolled. It was the signal for the formation of the priests' procession. A man over whom the sentence death has been passed must spend his last night with his father confessors. The same priests are with him to the end. cession was a picture from the middle ages, The old castle was the background; six priests in long black robes, with crucfixes, in front; the doomed man in uniform behind, his coat unbuttoned, and a firm, set expression on his face, and, behind,

four men who were to do the shooting-the best shots in the regiment. "In the English and American armies the men so chosen are given the benefit of a doubt, for the guns are all loaded for them secretly, and one gun has a blank cart-Each man has the right to hope that he had nothing to do with the killing. Not so in the Spanish army. The men are chosen some ten minutes before the execution, when no excuse of sickness can be made or any other taken; all guns are loaded with ball cartridges and no excuse taken for missing, as the sentenced man stands only twenty feet from the muzzle

"The magnificent courage of the man was noticeable. It became almost fascinating toward the end. It was not bravado, but genuine 'nerve.' We were told that the priests had been unable during the night to persuade him to confess any fault in the affair. He felt that justice was on his side, and so his manner showed. He did not exhibit the slightest tremor save for one moment, as he first came under the eyes of the many men he knew, when pulled his mustache nervously. He saluted the commandant, kissed the priests goodbye, and took his stand before the 'file,' blindfolded, which privilege is only granted to men of well-known nerve and whom the

chief officer is satisfied will not make a "Behind him, on the old stone wall, was a long nitch, about the height of a man's heart from the ground, in some three-quarters of an inch deep, chipped out by bullets which had performed similar grim duties. As a safeguard, when only four men do the shooting, two aim at the railroad engineering purposes. For offens- head and two at the heart. So the doomed denly raised his hand for a moment's delay, removed his cap, walked several yards away and laid it softly on the grass, re-turned and firmly took his stand. In a moment the end came. All four men fired and

the victim fell. 'Up to this time such a center figure had rid the scene of most of its revolting features; but now the Spanish army regulations came in and amply made up for any horrible details that may have been lacking before. He was pronounced dead by an army surgeon, which took from the sergeant of the file his privilege of a final shot. His clothes were torn open to show his wounds, which were bleeding profusely; the drum corps struck up a lively quickstep and the entire number of 600 men were made to march by the body, some over it, and they all had to look at it. It was the grimmest of all grim lessons. When the drum corps had passed into the fortress only the tramp, tramp of the troops as they passed by the body broke the silence, "Few of the Spaniards of the little group on the bastian appeared affected by it. The woman herself stood, a quietly interested spectator, only a few feet away. On my left a fellow was munching a sandwich, for it was yet some time before breakfast.

Fables Up to Date.

One Christmas eve, as Santa Claus was making his rounds, he entered a room that bore evidence of being occupied by a person of taste, culture and refinement. "I will have to delve deeply in my sack," quoth he, "for I always give liberally to those who already have. But who lives here, wonder? Is it man or maid?

Searching a closet, in one corner of the oom, trousers were found, and to Santa Claus that evidence was sufficient. So the bewhiskered St. Nick took from his sack a pipe, three boxes of cigars, a silk hat, two pairs of silk suspenders, a set of shirt studs, a dozen neckties, a poker set, a whisky flask and a cane. Leaving them piled on a sofa, Santa Claus mounted his bicycle and wheeled away. Santa made a mistake. A woman occupied that room. A new woman. When she

entered, she saw the miscellaneous collection of articles intended for masculine use and gave a startled cry. That cry indicated 'How nice my friends are to me," she

Moral: The new woman does not overlook any bets.

Missouri's Classification,

Bryan carried the ex-Confederate States, the silver States and the Populist States, He carried but one other State, Missouri, and as Missouri was never in the Confederacy, has no silver mines and no Populist record, it will have to be classified as Dam-

phool at Large. Money, Not Men.

Louisville Courier-Journal. The Cuban Junto has repeatedly proclaimed that not men, but money, is what s desired by the insurgents from their friends in the United States, yet it is not gold, but names that are enrolled at every "patriotic" meeting.

Don't Get Excited.

New York Tribune. Everybody is going to have time for several seber second thoughts before ac is taken on the Cuban resolutions. The